

**Claims**

We claim:

1. A method of displaying content recommendations to a user, the method  
5 comprises:  
    detecting when a user changes channels;  
    when the user changes channels, providing a recommendation of viewable  
content; and  
    allowing the user to select the recommended content.  
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2. A method of providing a user perceptible indicator of content items that can be  
viewed by a user, the method comprising:  
    receiving at least one recommendation of content that can be viewed by the user;  
    based on the at least one recommendation, generating the user perceptible  
15 indicator of content, wherein the generating occurs at a change in system state; and  
    allowing the user to interact with the user perceptible indicator.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the change in system state comprises activation of  
a client device.  
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4. The method of claim 1 wherein the change in system state comprises activation of  
a television viewing system.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the change in system state comprises activation of  
25 a set top box.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the change in system state comprises a channel  
change event.
- 30 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the interacting further comprises:  
    responding to user signals generated by a user-operated remote control device.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving of at least one recommendation further comprises:

5 responding to information from a rating engine, recommendation engine, or profile engine.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving further comprises:

generating the at least one recommendation based on any of local or remote content.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving further comprises:

generating the at least one recommendation based on any of content available immediately or content available in the future.

11. A method of providing a user perceptible indicator of content items that can be viewed by a user, the method comprising:

20 monitoring content viewed by a plurality of users;  
based on the content viewed by a plurality of users, generating the user perceptible indicator of content, wherein the generating occurs at a change in system state; and

allowing the user to interact with the user perceptible indicator.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the monitoring further comprises:

25 detecting content viewed by a plurality of users based on a predetermined number of users.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein the change in system state comprises activation of a client device.

30 14. The method of claim 11 wherein the change in system state comprises activation of a television viewing system.

15. The method of claim 11 wherein the change in system state comprises activation of a set top box.

5 16. The method of claim 11 wherein the change in system state comprises a channel change event.

17. The method of claim 11 wherein the interacting further comprises:  
responding to user signals generated by a user-operated remote control device.

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18. A system for displaying content recommendations to a viewer, the system comprises:

means for detecting when a viewer changes channels;

when the viewer changes channels, means for providing a recommendation of

15 viewable content; and

means for allowing the viewer to select the recommended content.

19. A system for providing a user perceptible indicator of content items that can be viewed by a user, the system comprises:

20 means for receiving at least one recommendation of content that can be viewed by the user;

means for generating, based on the at least one recommendation the user perceptible indicator of content, wherein the generating occurs at a change in system state; and

25 means for allowing the user to interact with the user perceptible indicator.

20. A system for providing a user perceptible indicator of content items that can be viewed by a user, the system comprises:

means for monitoring content viewed by a plurality of users;

means for generating, based on the content viewed by a plurality of users, the user perceptible indicator of content, wherein the generating occurs at a change in system state; and

means for allowing the user to interact with the user perceptible indicator.